

British Commerce will be free from capture as soon as the United Kingdom will agree that she will not capture the commerce of other nations. But that, she thus far, declines to assent to. When urged to it in the British House of Commons, Mr. McKenna, on behalf of the government, replied in effect (a) that

"We required the right of capture as a method of warfare, in order to hamper an enemy's trade."

While declining to agree to immunity of commercial ships of the enemy, the United Kingdom is, of course, interested in the immunity of food-stuffs in neutral ships—that is to say, she is anxious that in case of war with Germany (for example), food supplies coming to Liverpool in French, American or other vessels should be immune from capture. To accomplish this object, the British government called the great Powers together in London and from the conference came (February, 1909) the agreement known as the Declaration of London. By article 34 of that document, foodstuffs (and some other articles) in neutral ships are not to be subject to capture unless they

"are consigned to a fortified place belonging to the enemy or other place serving as a base for the armed forces of the enemy" (b).

The Declaration being the work of a Liberal government was opposed by the Unionists, and although it passed the Liberal House of Commons was defeated in the Unionist House of Lords (December 13, 1911). The food-supply difficulty can be easily got rid of.

5. A fifth reason, sometimes advanced, why Canada should contribute to the British navy is because of the large amount of capital which British investors send here. The argument has two phases: (1) gratitude for past favors, and (2) British ability and disposition to continue the advances. Neither of them has any validity.

The first can be disposed of by asking whether British tenants owe a debt of gratitude to British landlords for the loan of their farms and houses, at good rents? Of course, not. Well, why do borrowers of money owe a debt of gratitude to persons who lend them money at good rates of interest? Ought Argentina to contribute to the British navy because she pays British investors in-

(a) *Annual Register*, 1909, p. 86.

(b) *The Round Table* for March, 1912, has an article upon the subject.